

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, TW, LT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER H. K. YANG

1. ROC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER H. K. YANG VISITED LESOTHO JULY 9-11. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR W. T. FENG, DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE ROC FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TWO OTHER OFFICIALS. THIS WAS THE SIXTEENTH VISIT OF VICE MINISTER YANG TO LESOTHO. HE IS REGARDED HERE AS ONE OF LESOTHO'S STAUNCHEST FRIENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE HAD A TWO HOUR MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, DR. LEABUA JONATHAN, AND WAS GIVEN A RECEPTION BY THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT. AT THE RECEPTION THE ACTING FONMIN SPOKE WITH GREAT WARMTH ABOUT MR. YANG AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HE SAID THAT THE ROC HAD STOOD BY LESOTHO EVEN IN ITS DARKEST DAYS WHEN OTHER FRIENDS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE WITHDREW. THE ACTING FONMIN ASSURED MR. YANG THAT LESOTHO WOULD IN LIKE FASHION STAND BY CHINA COME WHAT MAY. IN HIS TURN, VICE MINISTER YANG PLEDGED AGAIN THE COMMITMENT OF THE ROC TO CONTINUE ITS ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO IN THE AGRICULTURE FIELD. HE REFERRED TO LESOTHO AS HE HAD DURING PAST VISITS AS HIS SECOND HOME. VICE MINISTER YANG

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TOLD THE CHARGE HIS PARTY HAD ATTENDED THE INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN MALAWI. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN MALAWI AND NOTED THAT IN HIS VIEW DR. BANDA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING A SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF MALAWI. HE SAID THAT WITHOUT UNITY THERE CAN BE NO REAL DEVELOPMENT. HE AGREED WITH THE CHARGE'S OBSERVATION THAT THERE IS A VERY REAL NEED FOR AN EFFORT IN LESOTHO TO RESOLVE

THE UNDERLYING SCHISM THAT HAS DIVIDED THE BASOTHO SINCE THE PERIOD OF TROUBLES IN THE EARLY 70S. HE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE CONTENT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRIMIN. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE THE VICE MINISTER HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE PARTICULARLY WARNED AGAINST THE DANGERS OF THE CUBAN-SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA.

2. COMMENT: VICE MINISTER YANG'S VISITS TO LESOTHO ARE A WELL-RECEIVED FEATURE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CALENDAR. THE CHINESE AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS IN LESOTHO HAVE NOT PRODUCED ANY SPECTACULAR SUCCESSES BUT THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM WHICH THEY OPERATE IS IMPRESSIVE AND THEY HAVE INGRATIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE PRIMIN IN PARTICULAR WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY HAVE MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS OWN FARM. THE ROC ALSO PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LESOTHO POLICE MOBILE UNIT. THE ROC REPRESENTATIVE IN LESOTHO, AMBASSADOR T. LIU, TOLD CHARGE THAT THE PRIMIN HAD GIVEN HIS ASSURANCES TO VICE MINISTER YANG THAT AS LONG AS HE IS HEAD OF THIS GOVERNMENT, LESOTHO'S RELATIONS WITH THE ROC WILL REMAIN FIRM.

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